

City of Newton
Crime Prevention Commission

(Alternatively referred to below as CPC or the Commission)

Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, May 15, 2013

7:00pm - Newton Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

Active Commissioners Present: Frank Wolpe (Chair), Richard Catrambone, Debra Darcy, Marc Epstein, and Bernard Goulding

Active Commissioners Absent: Fred Winer and David Winer

Commissioners' Consultants (formerly called Visiting Guests) Present: Margie Kern, Steven Konowitz, Bill Renke, Terry Sauro, and Barbara Wong

Ex-Officio Members Present: NPD Lt. Bruce Apotheker (Two-time, 2010 and 2011, Nominee for the coveted Person of the Year Award presented by the – City of Newton / Human Rights Commission)

Inactive Members Absent: Louis Bruno, Leonard Fisher, Margie Kagan, Benjamin Rubin, Colleen Rosenbaum, Scott Rosenbaum, Frances Shaer and Richard Wing

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Frank Wolpe, Chair. By a unanimous vote, the Draft Minutes of the Wednesday, April 17, 2013 meeting were approved.

The monthly Comstat Crime Report was then reviewed by Lt. Bruce Apotheker. It revealed an overall increase in crimes of 11%, year to year. That came mainly from an increase in burglaries from 57 to 85, which in turn was due mostly to an increase in commercial break-ins. The Detectives are at work on these.

We then turned our attention to a discussion, led by Lt. Apotheker, of the NPD Role in the Marathon Bomber Investigation, which included first responder reports of suspicious packages in the area of Commonwealth Avenue, runners taken to two sites in Newton to help reconnect with friends and families and shelters set up at City Hall and Boston College, etc. All agreed that the performance of NPD was stellar so the Commission formally commended each and every one of our NPD officers for their meritorious performance of duty. It was so noted and will be communicated to the Newton Chief of Police by the Commission Chair!

Next, the Commission heard from Commissioner Rich Catrambone about the effects and consequences of marijuana use and abuse under the Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012 and the proposed fixes now before the MA state legislature. There is a proposal drafted by State Senator John F. Keenan, Norfolk and Plymouth District, which seeks delay in medical marijuana implementation and would provide for regulation of marijuana to address local concerns. Catrambone's detailed handout was distributed for full discussion. It will be made available to interested parties upon request.

Finally, members enjoyed a fascinating Tour of the 911 Dispatch Center led by Lt. Bruce Apotheker who explained its operation. It was a confidence building experience.

In closing, the Chair asked all for Commissioners and Consultants to develop a list of Agenda building subjects, such as confirming the invitation for Chief Harold Mintz to speak at our June 19th meeting; an anticipated invitation for Jeff Sifton, Auxiliary Dep. Chief, to speak at an upcoming meeting, likely September 2013, about Auxiliary history/current operations; future Commission participation of student representatives; discussion of medical marijuana as it effects schools and students, etc.

On a motion made by the Chair, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.